

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ALNWICK.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1948.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The report for 1948 is again a brief interim report.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The area of the District remains at 92,964 acres.

The number of inhabited Houses is 3,782. Of the 48 new Houses completed during the year, 46 were with state assistance.

The Rateable Value is £48,413.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £216. 12. 5.

The population is estimated at 12,090 and this figure is taken as the basis in calculating the birth and death rates.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

The number of births - corrected for inward and outward transfers - was 200, of which 96 were males and 104 females. Two of these were still births and eleven were illegitimate.

Birth Rate for 1948	-	16.5	per thousand per annum
" " " 1947	-	19.6	" " " "
" " " 1946	-	18.5	" " " "

The Birth Rate for England and Wales 1948 - 17.5

Deaths.

The number of deaths - corrected for inward and outward transfers - was 143 of which 79 were males and 64 females.

Death Rate for 1948	-	11.8	per thousand per annum
" " " 1947	-	12.7	" " " "
" " " 1946	-	11.6	" " " "

The Death Rate for England and Wales 1948 - 10.8

Infantile Deaths.

The number of deaths in infants under one year of age was 7 (all legitimate) of which 4 were males and three females.

Infantile Death Rate 1948	-	35	per thousand births
" " " 1947	-	34.6	" " " "
" " " 1946	-	41.6	" " " "

The Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales 1948 - 34 per thousand births.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.

Heart Disease.....	35
Other Circulatory Diseases.....	21
Cancer.....	19
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	2
Other Tubercular Diseases.....	1
Infantile Diarrhoea.....	0
Measles.....	0
Diabetes.....	1
Whooping Cough.....	0
Syphilitic Diseases.....	0
Accident.....	9
Suicide.....	2
Scarlet Fever.....	0
Diphtheria.....	0
Nephritis.....	4
Bronchitis.....	7
Pneumonia.....	4
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	3
Ulcer of Stomach.....	3
Other Digestive Diseases.....	5
Premature Birth.....	3
All other causes.....	24

It will be noted that no deaths were due to Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Puerperal Fever, Measles or Influenza.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of Infectious Diseases - excluding Tuberculosis - notified during the year was 105 as follows:-

Measles.....	40
Scarlet Fever.....	14
Whooping Cough.....	11
Chicken Pox.....	33
Erysipelas.....	1
Lobar Pneumonia.....	4
Mumps.....	1
Puerperal Fever.....	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and two cases of other Tubercular Diseases were notified during the year.

FEVER HOSPITAL.

Twenty two cases of Infectious Disease were admitted to the Alnwick Fever Hospital of which nine cases of Scarlet Fever were from the Alnwick Rural District.

WATER SUPPLY.

As in previous years all public supplies were taxed to capacity during the late summer. Supplementary pumping had to be resorted to for Craster and Dunstan to make good the reduced yield from Rock Spring. Because of the reduced yield from Swarland Shaft, it was not possible to continue supplying Togston from that source and in August, Togston had to be fed from the Sturton Grange source (normally supplying Hauxley only), the Southside Borehole source having to be introduced to augment the supply from Sturton Grange. A defective main caused an interruption of supply to Hauxley on one occasion in August.

A breakdown affecting the Swarland Village Booster Pump occurred in April and mobile pumping plant had to be brought into operation until repairs were completed.

The ex War Department Plant at Elder's Well, Longhoughton had to be brought into use in August by the Council to maintain the supply in the privately owned system to Longhoughton Village.

Alnmouth supply is chlorinated. Felton and District (Swarland Shaft) supply is treated for the removal of iron. As noted in previous reports some of the spring supplies deteriorate in quality after heavy rain.

The number of dwelling houses and the population supplied from Public Mains (a) direct to the houses and (b) by means of standpipes is as follows:-

PARISH	Number of Houses		Population	
	Supplied direct to house	By Stand -Pipe	Supplied direct to house	By Stand -Pipe
Acklington	43	-	168	-
Acklington Park	4	-	15	-
Alnmouth	196	5	748	20
Birling	17	2	60	8
Craster	36	25	130	89
Dunstan	51	31	164	108
Eglingham	10	20	40	70
Embleton	149	53	386	166
Felton	145	7	416	20
Glanton	94	7	280	20
Greens & Glantlees	2	2	9	9
Hauxley	24	313	100	1,405
Howick	1	3	3	12
Newton-on-the-Moor	9	37	30	117
Newton-by-the-Sea	22	33	63	90
Shilbottle	312	-	1,400	-
Sturton Grange	18	6	66	30
Swarland	86	-	300	-
Togston	199	-	603	-
Warkworth	325	-	1,000	-
Woodhouse	2	2	14	14
Totals	1,745	546	5,995	2,178

Summary.

Total Number of Houses supplied from Public Mains.

Direct..... 1,745
By Standpipe..... 546

Total..... 2,291

Total Population (Estimated) supplied from Public Mains.

Direct..... 5,995
By Standpipe..... 2,178

Total..... 8,173

4.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new works of sewerage were carried out during the year.

(Signed) B. TREVOR-ROPER,

Medical Officer of Health.